

## River Road Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

### Project Team Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2009

#### In Attendance:

Dave French, River Fields  
Aida Copic, Planning and Design Services  
Jon Henney, GSP  
Lisa Hite, Metro Parks  
Mike Smiley, Environs Inc.

Richard Breen, Glenview  
Felicia Harper, GSP  
Dirk Gowin, Public Works  
Kathy Melvin, BIC

Distributed: Meeting Agenda; Bike signage email; Table of Contents; Enhancement Themes and Strategies; Draft Assessment Report

The meeting started with the approval of the minutes from July 1, 2009, July 15, 2009, August 7, 2009 and August 19, 2009. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Dirk started the discussion on the email that was sent to the project team from Brad Swope. This email discussed the possibility of signage along River Road prior to the completion of the CMP. Dirk stated that KYTC has certain criteria to seek an application for Share the Road signage. He states that lanes have to be a minimum of 8', a 3' separation and 3' zone with a total of 14' safe to pass. The other element of the criteria is existing bicycle usage along the roadway. River Road currently has a lane width of 12'. Since River Road already has the usage it could be a good candidate for the Share the Road signage. He stated that Metro would have to be very selective on where to place the signs until the time that facilities are provided for bicycle users. Dirk believes that the major intersections should have Share the Road Signs including but not limited to Blankenbaker, Wolf Pen Branch and Zorn. He believes that 4-5 signs should be adequate along the corridor.

Dave stated that River Fields believes that signs should not be installed until a strategy is in place along the corridor to make all signs uniform. Dirk noted that the signs are regulatory, and will have to conform to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He also added that River Road was designated as a priority corridor for bike routes at both Bike Summits. Dirk did not state the third criteria and no determinations were made on the placement of signs prior to the completion of the CMP.

Richard stated that Councilman Downard contacted him regarding a Resolution that is on the agenda for Metro Council on Thursday September 10, 2009. The resolution was for a 1.4 million dollar contract with the State of Kentucky for construction of a bike path along River Road. Richard expressed concerns about how the CMP would be used because the language of the resolution made it sound like the decision for bike lanes along the corridor had already been made. Richard respectfully requested that this committee not proceed forward until a copy of the contract has been provided. This would include all work sheets, plans for ROW, schedule, etc.

Dirk replied that the resolution refers to a CMAQ grant that was applied for in January of 2008. Public Works had previously received a Scenic Byway grant for \$300,000 to complete the Corridor Management Plan for River Road and a \$650,000 for improvements. He said that once the CMP is completed the scope of the contract with the State will be redefined based on the recommendations of the CMP.

Mike Smiley asked if the resolution on the agenda for Metro Council is to accept the money from the state only. Dirk stated that was correct and that the funds would not be available to Louisville Metro until a project plan is provided and approved. He said that the project plan would reflect the recommendations of the CMP. Jon H stated that this situation is unusual because we usually do the planning process first and then have to wait for funds to implement the recommendations. Dirk estimated that it will cost \$5 million for improvements along River Road which could include bike lanes or a multi-use path.

Dave F asked why the resolution is being presented to Metro Council. Dirk said that this step is necessary for Metro to secure the funds. He went on to say that the final contract cannot be executed without a detailed project plan, which will be amended from the original grant proposal to reflect the recommendations from the CMP. Richard stated that the resolution states that the grant is for River Road bike improvements and he felt the Project Team should have been notified before it was sent to Metro Council for the Mayor's signature. Dirk reiterated that the grant application was submitted in January of 2008 and awarded in September 2008, so the language is dated. The notice of the award of this grant was sent to Louisville Metro prior to the forming of this project team. He went on to say that the resolution allows Metro to accept the grant and it requires the Mayor's signature. The grant is good for 3 years after the contract is signed. It is a reimbursement program and Public Works can not spend any money until they provide explicit plans to execute the contract which will reflect the recommendations of the CMP.

Lisa wanted to know what the downside would be of pulling the resolution off of the agenda and presenting it to Metro Council later. Dirk said that this was to obtain the Mayor's signature. There is an established timeframe with KIPDA to be awarded this money. Lisa said that the deadline was December. Dirk asked Lisa if Metro Parks obtained the Mayor's signature on their CMAQ contract once it was awarded or if they waited until they were about to start the improvements.

Richard asked for all the information on the background for this contract. He would like to see any plans related to the grant application and would like to know if Lisa proceeded to get the Mayor's signature on previous grants. He believes that any information similar to this should come to the project team before the council.

Dave stated that he was bothered by the language because it applies that the only reason we are doing the CMP is for a bicycle plan and that we need to emphasize the other features of the plan. Jon H reminded the project team that this application was based on the thinking in January 2008. The language had to be written with a certain focus to meet the criteria of the CMAQ grant. Dirk said that an air quality benefit is a requirement of the CMAQ funds.

Aida gave a short summary of what she knows about CMAQ plans. When PDS prepared the application for CMAQ grants they look at the guidelines and see what projects qualify to meet those guidelines. River Road was a priority corridor that was selected by the bike summit for installation of bike lanes. The \$5 million dollar amount was an estimate when writing the grant application. The application was for money to implement the CMP after it was completed.

Kathy asked if the grant money could be spent on anything on River Road. Dirk suggested that the money could be spent on anything transportation related. He also said the grant requires at 20% match from Metro Louisville. There is not a match in the budget for this year because the CMP is not completed. The grant money can not be spent until Metro Louisville matches the grant.

Jon H noted that while this discussion needed to occur, that the planned agenda for the meeting was not covered. He suggested the possibility of scheduling a follow up meeting for next week. Richard said that he was reluctant to meet until the issue of the resolution was resolved. Dirk said he would follow up with Richard on a meeting to review the grant materials.

The meeting was than adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Felicia Harper